



Arlington Recycling Committee
Minutes of 12/1/16

PRESENT

Members: Co-Chair Juli Brazile, Co-Chair Gordon Jamieson, Recycling Coordinator Charlotte Milan
Residents: Pete Howard

MINUTES of 11/3/16 approved as corrected.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Charlotte discussed the Recycling Center program. Refer to Ref 1. She explained her plan for the enlarged center. It will be under one roof. Refer to the drawing in Ref 1. This program has provided the Town with \$22,500 in State grants.

Charlotte has organized a premier of her new recycling video to take place next Tues.

The group discussed scrap metal recycling. The Town is not gaining credit for this program. Most of the scrap is from municipal sources. The amount currently withdrawn from the residential waste stream is judged too small to consider. In addition, DPW does not have a scale.

BUSINESS RECYCLING: Juli provided 2 tables that display some of the material in the survey response from businesses using private arrangements with haulers (Ref 2). The first organizes the list by hauler and shows that some businesses believe incorrectly that their hauler does not offer recycling. There also seems to be confusion about whether a hauler charges extra for recycling. The second table shows the businesses grouped by how they answered the hauler recycling offer question (not offered, offered w/ no extra charge, offered w/ extra charge). Those not recycling give other reasons in addition to hauler not offering or hauler charging extra. The group agreed that the 1st response of the ARC should be to make sure the hauler permit requires hauler to offer recycling and confirm what the state requires haulers to do with regard to offering recycling services. Juli will research. Several other follow up steps are possible. Juli stated that Susan is willing to do some follow up.

RECYCLE RIGHT: Gordon discussed his ideas for the article about how much trash is recyclable. Others urged that the material be presented as clearly as possible. They suggested that recent MA DEP data be used rather than country-wide data. Gordon believes that the different sources provide similar results. His input is due next week. Juli is planning a set of resolutions for recycling more for early January including the one barrel limit.

RECRUITING: Gordon urges use of all name lists – ARC email list, composting interest list, Sustainable Arlington list, and Recycling Center volunteer list to invite people to consider joining the ARC as a full or associate member. Others expressed concern with the use of lists for purposes other than original purpose. Charlotte & Juli have been able to get workers when needed. The event on Tues is a nice time to invite volunteers to visit an ARC meeting and think about getting involved with our work. We have the option of using Town email outreach if we write a committee vacancy listing for the Town website. Gordon will verify if we can solicit both full and associate members using the Town webpage since the associate membership is informal.

RECYCLING CONTAINERS: This topic was discussed in some detail even though Larry, the proponent, was not present. Larry's main point was that people would be more likely to support a reduction in the number of trash barrels if they get something in return. The ARC cannot subsidize a significant number of barrels, but Larry suggests allocating \$1000 to allow us to sell 200 \$15 barrels with lids for \$10. There are significant logistical issues and we will need to partner with DPW to make the purchase and store/distribute the barrels. The group had concerns about using a national chain rather than a local store and whether the barrel was a good size and high quality. Juli suggested starting with an education campaign around the issue. We could use a Recycle Right column to explain why the old blue bins are no longer given away and then link to a survey we create showing people the different sizes and shapes of recycling bins. The data might help us confirm which style to subsidize and how many people might be interested in buying one from us at a discount. She will talk to Larry about moving this idea forward.

NEXT MEETING 1/5/16 – Most meetings 1st Thursday monthly at 7:30 PM in Town Hall Annex 1st Floor

Ref 1 Coordinator's Report

Ref 2 Tables Displaying Selected Business Survey Responses